

HEROES

CHAPTER 23

Family Man

The man in horned-rimmed glasses, Mr. Bennet, has dealt with many individuals with fantastic abilities. Most were faceless entities, those to be "bagged and tagged."

A very few became friends. And one he would encounter early in his career, who would become the most special person in his life: the girl called Claire.

0 DESSA,
TEXAS.

MY ADOPTED DAUGHTER JUST WALKED UP TO A **NUCLEAR MAN**, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO GO HIROSHIMA -- AND KNOCKED HIM **UNCONSCIOUS**. SHE SAVED THE LIVES OF HER **FAMILY**. AND EVERY LIVING THING WITHIN A **TWENTY MILE RADIUS**.

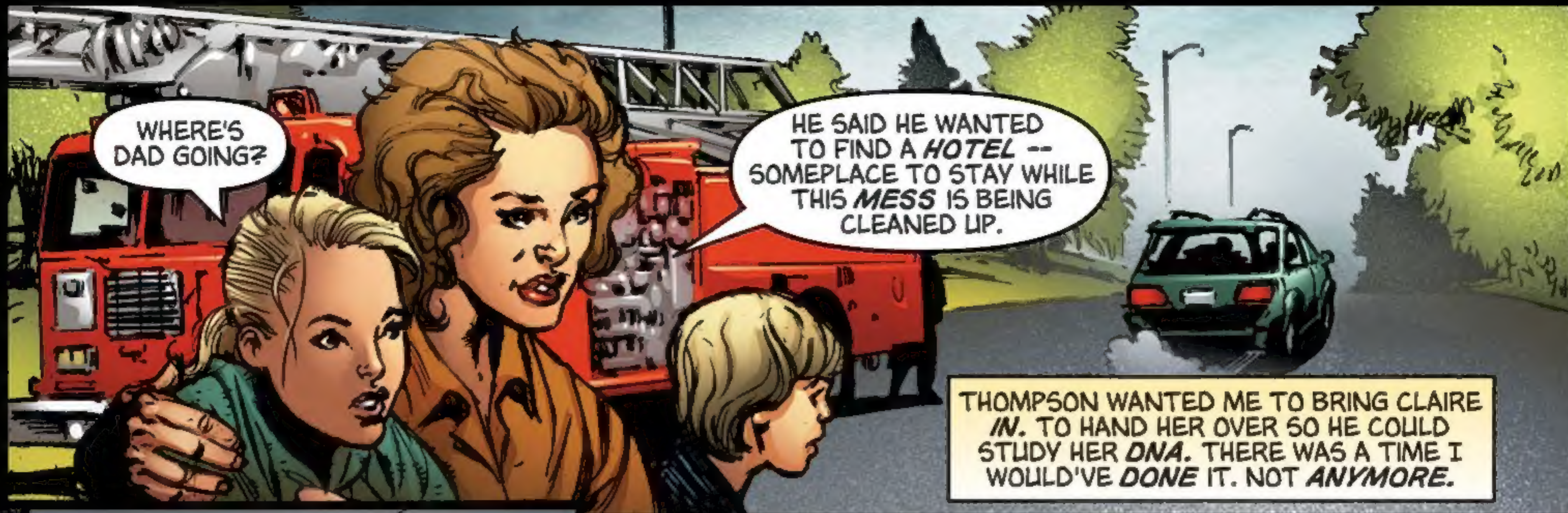
CLAIRE JUST HEALED FROM A **HUMAN SKELETON**, BACK INTO A **CHEERLEADER**. THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING THAT'S EASY TO **HIDE** FROM THE PEOPLE I WORK FOR. AND FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS, I'D BEEN **TRYING** TO KEEP CLAIRE'S ABILITIES **UNDER WRAPS**.

YOUR
DAUGHTER IS
EXTRAORDINARY.

I
KNOW.

YOU HAVE **ONE
HOUR** TO BRING
HER IN.

CLAIRE HAD JUST SAVED
THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT LIVES.
I HAD ONE HOUR TO SAVE **HERS**.



THOMPSON WANTED ME TO BRING CLAIRE *IN*. TO HAND HER OVER SO HE COULD STUDY HER *DNA*. THERE WAS A TIME I WOULD'VE *DONE IT*. NOT *ANYMORE*.

JUDGING BY THE *SEDAN* TRAILING ME, THEY MUST SUSPECT I MIGHT *BETRAY* THEM.



...I NEED TO CALL SOME *OUTSIDE HELP*.





THE ONLY PERSON I TRUSTED TO *HELP* ME WAS A WOMAN I HAD *TRAINED*.

HANA GITTELMAN HAD THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY *ABILITY* -- TO SEE AND HEAR EVERY BIT OF DATA ON THE INTERNET, SWIRLING AROUND HER LIKE LEAVES IN THE WIND. I CALLED HER *WIRELESS*.

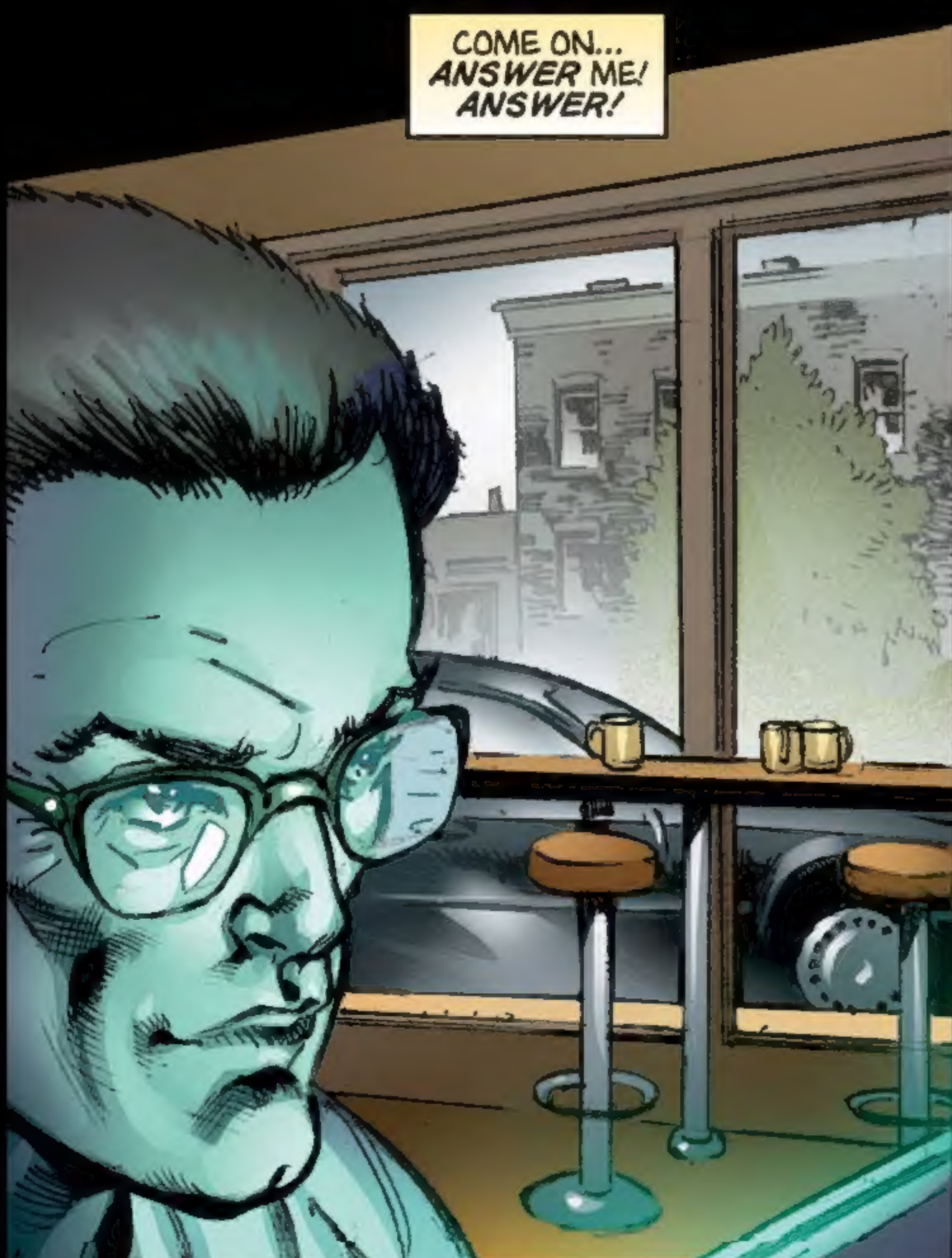


THEY WERE *CLOSING IN*. I HAD TO GET AN *E-MAIL* OUT.

AND *HOPE*.

AND PRAY THAT SHE WAS *OUT THERE*.

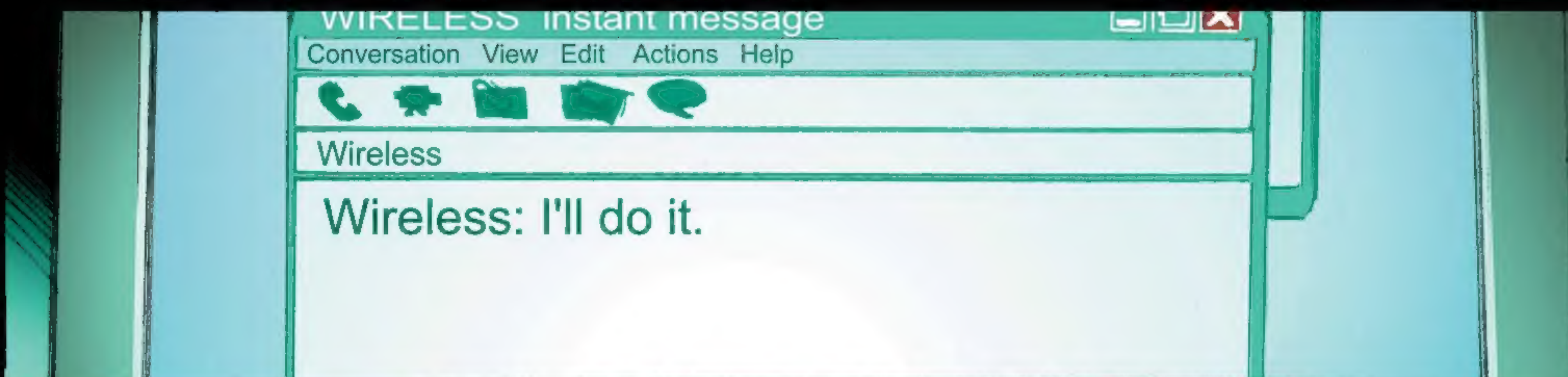
LISTENING.



COME ON... *ANSWER ME!* *ANSWER!*



MAYBE *HANA* HASN'T *FORGIVEN* ME FOR TRICKING HER INTO WORKING FOR THE *BAD GUYS*, AND LEAVING HER FOR *DEAD* IN THE MIDDLE OF THE *SERENGETI*.





...EVERYTHING
SHOULD BE *FINE*.

MY DAUGHTER
WILL BE *SAFE*.

WHAT WAS
HER *NAME*?

I CAN'T
REMEMBER...

FAMILY MAN

JESSE ALEXANDER
Story

STAZ JOHNSON
Art

RICHARD
ISANOVE
Colors

COMICRAFT
Lettering



An
INVISIBLE COLLEGE
production